

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the Office Action dated May 1, 2007 is respectfully requested.

Claims 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner found the claim term "film material" in claim 21 is not clear. The applicant suggests that the claim term "film material" is clear for people with ordinary skill in the art. The claim term "film material" means the material used to make camera film rolls. The Examiner also found the number of membrane surfaces in claim 23 is not clear. The applicant has amended claim 23 to address the concern expressed in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-25, 27-30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0008692 ("Omura") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0055005 ("Teterwak"). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Omura and Teterwak does not render the above claims obvious. Omura and Teterwak at least do not disclose the limitation of the "input induction section" which includes an insulated flexible membrane and electromagnetic induction receiving antenna arrays, as recited in independent claim 21.

Independent claim 21 recites an electronic whiteboard containing a main unit and an input pen. The main unit has a writing layer as surface, a bracket as bottom, and a frame around. Between the writing layer and the bracket are an input induction section, a recognition controlling circuit, and a signal output device. The input induction section includes a covering layer, an electromagnetic induction generating layer, and a bottom support bracket layer. The electromagnetic induction generating layer further comprises a base layer, which is an insulated

flexible membrane made by a film material, and electromagnetic induction receiving antenna arrays printed on both sides of the base layer. The input pen has a radio signal generating device which can emit electromagnetic signals. When the input pen touches the writing layer of the electronic whiteboard, the electromagnetic signals penetrate to reach the input induction section. The electromagnetic induction receiving antenna array in the input induction section is induced to generate a location signal which is transmitted to the recognition controlling circuit for processing.

Omura is regarding an electronic blackboard system with a touch input device. However, the touch input device operates in a very different way from this application to sense a touch position and does not disclose the input induction section as recited in claim 21. The touch input device senses the touch position through the surface elastic waves transmitting on the touch surface, rather than through the electromagnetic signals in the input induction section of claim 21. The touch input device 102 has a transparent board 200 and one surface of the board is a touch surface. The transparent board 200 comprises a transmitting transducer 202, a receiving transducer 203, and reflection arrays 204, 205 to sense a touch position in the X-axial direction in the touch surface, and a transmitting transducer 206, a receiving transducer 207, and reflection arrays 208, 209 to sense a touch position in the Y-axial direction in the touch surface. The transparent board 200 is a glass board and the reflecting arrays are formed by baking the glass board at a specified temperature after a screen is printed with glass paste. Omura, page 7, [0113] and [0119]. The transmitting transducer 202 converts an electronic signal received from the controller 103 to a mechanical vibration to generate surface elastic waves which propagate along the touch surface of the board 200. The reflection arrays 204, 205, located at the edge of the touch surface, reflect the

surface elastic waves transmitted from the transmitting transducer 202 and guide the waves to the receiving transducer 203. When a user touches the touch surface with a fingertip or touch pen, the surface elastic waves propagating on the touch position are absorbed or dispersed and, as a result, largely attenuated. By identifying a point of time when the wave is attenuated, the touch position in the X-axial direction can be identified. The touch position in the Y-axial direction can be identified by the same process. Omura, page 7, [0120]-[0122] and page 8, [0123]-[0125].

Omura does not disclose the input induction section recited in claim 21. The input induction section has a base layer which is an insulated flexible membrane made by a film material. Omura discloses a transparent board made by glass, which is neither flexible nor made by a film material. The input induction section has an electromagnetic induction receiving antenna array printed on surfaces of the flexible membrane, which is induced by the electromagnetic signals from the input pen to generate an induced location signal. Omura discloses transmitting transducers located at corners of the transparent board to generate surface elastic waves through mechanical vibration, which is not an electromagnetic induction generating layer comprising a flexible membrane and antenna arrays to generate an induced location signal. Thus, transmitting transducers in Omura have very different functions and structures from the electromagnetic induction generating layer. Omura also discloses receiving transducers located at corners of the transparent board to receive surface elastic waves, which is not an antenna array printed on the flexible membrane and can not be induced by electromagnetic signals to generate an induced location signal. Moreover, Omura does not disclose the covering layer in the input induction section.

In addition, there is no motivation to combine Teterwak with Omura. Teterwak teaches a high voltage crystal controlled oscillator for an electronic pen used with an electrostatic digitizing tablet. However, the touch input device of the electronic blackboard system in Omura senses touch location through the attenuation of surface elastic waves, rather than electromagnetic signals generated by the electronic pen in Teterwak. As a result, there is no motivation to combine the electronic pen in Teterwak with the electronic blackboard system in Omura, which does not need an electronic pen at all.

Claims 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0008692 ("Omura") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0055005 ("Teterwak") and U.S. Patent No. 7091909 ("Nakano"). It is respectively submitted that the combination of Omura, Teterwak, and Nakano does not render claim 26 obvious. Claim 26 depends on claim 21 and includes all limitations of claim 21. Omura, Teterwak, and Nakano at least do not disclose the limitation of the "input induction section" which includes an insulated flexible membrane and electromagnetic induction receiving antenna arrays, as recited in independent claim 21. As discussed before, Omura and Teterwak do not disclose the limitation of the "input induction section." In addition, Nakano is directed to an antenna unit adaptable to a wideband and does not disclose the limitation of the "input induction section." Moreover, there is no motivation to combine Nakano with Omura because the antenna unit disclosed in Nakano is very different from the receiving transducers in Omura. Furthermore, the applicant suggests that Nakano, filed on January 28, 2005 and published on October 6, 2005, is not a prior art reference to this application.

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0008692 ("Omura") in view of U.S. Published

Application No. 2001/0055005 ("Teterwak") and U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0074171 ("Nakano Publication"). It is respectively submitted that the combination of Omura, Teterwak, and Nakano Publication does not render claim 31 obvious. Claim 31 depends on claim 21 and includes all limitations of claim 21. Omura, Teterwak, and Nakano Publication at least do not disclose the limitation of the "input induction section" which includes an insulated flexible membrane and electromagnetic induction receiving antenna arrays, as recited in independent claim 21. As discussed before, Omura and Teterwak do not disclose the limitation of the "input induction section." Nakano Publication also does not disclose the limitation of "input induction section."

In view of the foregoing, the applicant suggests that the claims presently in the application are now in condition for allowance. Thus, a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earlier convenience.

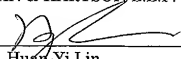
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Appl. No. 10/500,479
Amdt. Dated November 8, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2007

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Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: 
Huan-Yi Lin
Registration No. L0061
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: 310-785-4600
Fax: 310-785-4601